

**17TH MARCH
2015**

LEVEL 4 NEWSLETTER

**TERM 1
WEEK 8
2015**

WELCOME

Coming to an end

We cannot believe Term 1 is almost over. It has been an extremely busy term so far with more excitement to come for the Year 6s with Buddies and Camp in the coming few days. Year 5s had a great time on their camp and it is great to see them back in the school routine of the year 2015. Thanks to all the parents who came to Parent/Teacher Interviews. It was great to meet a lot of you for the first time. Please remember that you are welcome to discuss your child's progress or ask your child's teacher questions at any stage but if you would like to actually meet face to face for an interview, we do appreciate a

phone call to request an interview time or a note in your child's diary in advance. We have many after school meetings that often cannot be rescheduled therefore prior warning is essential to ensure that your queries are answered.

Next term, Year 5s have their swimming program. Please remember to send any forms or money to school by the end of the term as this is vital for smooth organization of the program. We thank Clinton Walsh for his outstanding efforts with organizing the swimming along with the House Athletics and Cross Country.

IMPORTANT DATES

17th March Level 4 Planning Day

**19th March Year 6s Buddy Walk
to The Dell**

**20th March 2015 House Cross
Country**

23rd March Year 6 Camp

Homework Pointers

- Your child is responsible for their homework. They should be coming to you nightly to have their diary signed.
- Please ensure that you are listening to them read at least once a week for the stronger readers and more often if your child still needs support. Your child's teacher can advise you on specific needs for your child but it is important that you hear them read to assist with fluency and understanding.
- Please do not make excuses for your child's lack of ability to complete homework regularly. This is an important organizational skill and we must work together to assist them.

Mathletics and Literacy Pro

Many students have been accessing Mathletics from home which is fantastic. Teachers have had battles with the children in the classrooms which has been a lot of fun. Please encourage your child to spend half an hour a week minimum using this fantastic resource. Some Numeracy Groups will be using it in class as we can set

tasks for individual students and groups of students according to their ability level.

Students must also access Literacy Pro from home to log their Lexile books onto the system and complete the comprehension tasks associated with their book. Many children are forgetting to do this. If you have any queries about this program,

please speak to your child's teacher. All children should have a Lexile book that they are reading at home. You will know their Lexile number by looking at the spine of the book where a blue coloured sticker marks the level of the book.

NAPLAN

Year 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN tests on 12th, 13th and 14th May. There will be 4 tests for them to complete. You can assist us by talking to your child about the tests. We often get students coming to school very stressed about sitting these tests and we would like you to ease this stress by not putting pressure on them on the day of the tests, ensuring they are happy when they come to school and reiterate with them the reasons these tests are given. If you would like more information about the NAPLAN testing, please speak to your child's teacher.

<http://www.nap.edu.au/>

The website above does supply all the information you should need.

Tuesday 12th May

Language Conventions

Writing

Wednesday 13th May

Reading

Thursday 14th May

Numeracy

All students in Level 4 will be doing focusing on Persuasive Writing Genre at the beginning of Term 2. Persuasive text or Narrative text will be the genre for NAPLAN this year. We do not know until the day of testing so we aim to expose the students to both genre in the lead up to NAPLAN. We will be participating in a Common Assessment Task with Vermont Secondary College Year 7 students and Level 4 students from local primary schools. This is a fabulous opportunity for the teachers to moderate writing and discuss assessment criteria in line with NAPLAN assessment.

Do Disasters Bring Out the Best in People?

Next term our Inquiry focus will be on Natural Disasters. This is a fantastic unit that is engaging and creates a great deal of discussion. Unfortunately, every time we do this unit, there seems to be a large amount of natural disasters occurring in the world but it does make for intense interest and learning.

We aim to take the students to IMAX for an excursion some time during the term where we will view a 3D movie called

the Forces of Nature. Please be aware that these films are often rated PG due to the nature of the topic.

Students will engage in an individual project next term which may require some time spent at home doing research only. They should not be doing the project work at home as plenty of time will be given during class to complete the work. This will be a major part of their assessment next term because

"Procrastination is the foundation of all disasters." [Pandora Poikilos, Excuse Me, My Brains Have Stepped Out](#)

we will be focusing on their ability to manage their time, work effectively to reach goals and share with their peers their learning.

Interschool Sports

Term 2 sees our first Interschool Sport competition. Students have begun to try out for their chosen sport and will be putting their names on lists this week. Clinton Walsh will speak to the children about the fact that all students are very lucky to be involved and will represent the school in a sport. Sometimes however, students do not get their first choice for sport due to extremely large num-

bers. Please assist us in this regard by discussing resilience with your child. Whilst it can be a huge deal for some students, it is not a life or death situation therefore encourage them to see the good in it such as playing in a team, having fun outside of the school environment, experience a different sport and the chance to represent Vermont Primary School in a team sport.

**Tough times
don't last; Tough
people do.**

Graduation 2015

Graduation this year is 11th December at Box Hill Town Hall. This date was booked at the end of last year. We need to lock our dates in early due to a high volume of requests to use the facility.

We would like to inform Year 6 parents now that girls' attire for the night **MUST NOT BE IN THE FORM OF A STRAPLESS DRESS**. A lot of families buy their daughter's dress very early in the year before we normally send out information regarding appropriate clothing. This is Year 6 Graduation, not a secondary school function where clothing might

be more formal. Please keep this in mind if you are going to purchase an outfit well in advance.

Next term we will be sending out sponsorship letters to businesses in the community. We need to do this to ensure that costs to our Vermont Primary School families are kept to a minimum. We have not had a price increase for graduation for at least 7 years due to the incredible amount of support received. If you know of any businesses that may be willing to support us please contact Gillian Prentice (Level 4 Team

Leader).



Fantastic Mathematics Work

We have recently been looking at shapes, focusing on 3D shapes, nets, bird's eye view and street views. We are also doing some work on geometry at the moment and thought we would share some fantastic work that the students have been doing. Some of the Year 6 grades have constructed mini futuristic cities. These have been fun, hands on activities.



Home Reading, Numeracy and Manner of the Month

It would be great for your child if you could encourage them to practise their times tables through some family competitions or challenges. This is a basic skill that must be learnt in order to solve mathematical problems. If your child can do their times tables then they will have greater success with division.

At home, give your child the opportunity to read a newspaper or even share

an article with them and discuss it. Why not read a book to them or tell them about stories from your childhood? E.g., your favourite books when you were at school.

This month's Manner is Inclusiveness. Discuss with your child what this means, what does it look like at school, at home or even in the workplace?

